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CITIES TO GET NATURAL GAS

PLAN 1.5-BILLION-ZLOTY PROGRAM -- Slowo Polskie, No 4, 29 Jan 50

Although Poland has large deposits of natural gas, very few cities are equipped to use gas, especially natural gas. It is now planned to (1) exploit the natural-gas fields to supply cities and (2) promote the use of compressed gas for operating automotive vehicles.

Under the Six-Year Plan, cities near existing gas pipe lines and those along the route of the proposed new lines will be equipped for gas consumption.

The cost of building distribution plants in cities and developing the network of urban gas mains will amount to about 1,500,000,000 zlotys. Cities which have no gasworks can use either natural gas, as for instance Jaslo; a mixture of gas and air, as is used in Tarnow and Krosno; or a mixture of natural gas and water gas. In building installations, the problem of storage for natural gas is very important.

Certain variations in the consumption of gas during a 24-hour period can be easily controlled because of the great capacity of the gas mains. However, accidental damage to gas mains and delayed repairs would create a problem. Those cities lying between two gas lines need no storage plant.

The gas could be stored in tanks or even in the wells themselves under proper geological conditions, or the problem could be solved by keeping a supply of liquid gas on hand.

It is expected that the network of urban gas pipes for natural gas will be completed in 1951.

SAND USED IN COAL MINES -- Przekroj, No 236, 16 Oct 49

Several billion additional tons of coal will be extracted from the Slask area as the result of forcing sand into the worked-out mine stalls with sand. The sand

- 1 -

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mixed with water and a binder will be dumped into a pit 20 meters wide. From the pit the mixture will be forced under high pressure through pipes 20-150 centimeters in diameter into the open spaces, where it will cool and harden. Sand is already being delivered to some mines near Myslowice.

A railroad trunk line is being built through the Bledow Desert, center of a great sand area, by brigades of Service to Poland. One of the largest classification yards for locomotives hauling sand will be located in the vicinity of Jezor. Special trains of 50-ton-capacity dump cars will be used on the main sand lines.

TO STEP UP POWER PRODUCTION -- Dziennik Polski, No 1, 1 Jan 50

It is expected that production of the power industry in 1955 will increase to 249 percent of 1939.

In 1955, production will reach 18 billion kilowatt-hours of electric power, or 4.5 times more than in 1938. The per-capita production will be 686 kilowatt-hours, whereas before the war it was 114 kilowatt-hours, and in 1949, 327 kilowatt-hours. It is expected that 9,000 villages will be electrified.

MACHINE MAKES SAWDUST BRIQUETS -- Slowo Polskie, No 4, 29 Jan 50

Andrzej Stanislawski, a former sawmill worker and now adviser to the Ministry of Forestry, invented an inexpensive machine for making sawdust briquets without binding. These briquets can be used not only as heating fuel but also as fuel for gas generators in automotive vehicles. Hitherto, sawdust could be used only as heating fuel and the cost of removing waste sawdust from the mills amounted to millions of zlotys a year.

Production of sawdust briquets by the Stanislawski method will increase the use value of wood by 10 percent and, by adapting the briquets as fuel for gas generators, will save hard wood used for making fuel blocks for gas generators.

It is estimated that a practical application of the invention will save about one billion zlotys a year.

EXPLOSION IN MIKULCZYCE MINE -- Ziemia Olsztynska, No 47, 16 Feb 50

A powerful explosion in Mikulczyce mine at 0210 hours on 14 February 1950 at stall No 507, level 575, caused the caving in of two galleries for nearly 20 meters.

Alojzy Cichy, digger, and Wilhelm Kolodziej, loader, were buried in one of the galleries.

While air was pumped through the ventilator to keep the buried miners alive, a rescue squad forced its way through the debris and brought out Kolodziej at 1410 and Cichy at 1545 hours.

Engineer Szczepanski arrived soon to direct rescue operations. Both miners were saved.

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- 2 -

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